Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

5/1983

May 1983

MEETINGS
Depot Town Merchants' Committee
7:30 P.M. May 12
Depot Town Association
7:30 P.M, Thursday May 19
Depot Town Association
8:00 P.M., Thursday May 26
all in the caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Steam Excursion Sold Out

All seventy tickets on the steam train trip to Bellevue, Ohio on May 14th were sold before noon on the first day of operation at the DTA booth in the Farmer' Market in April. Described as Depot Town's "sister city," Bellevue was touted so enthusiastically in the April Rag that the writers forgot to publish the date of the event. Equally enthusiastic readers discovered the May 14th date in a small ad on the back page and called for more information. "How many tickets do you want?" "Come to Saturday's Market and pick them up."

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PRESERVATION IS HOUSING AMERICA

Preservation Week
May 8 - 14, 1983

Foundation Seeks Control of Market Freight House

The Historic Depot Town Foundation spent many hours in negotiation with City manager Van Whaler, City Attorney John Barr and Executive Secretary Joan Helkaa during the month of April to find ways for the City to terminate its management responsibility of the activities at the Freight House and shift that authority to the neighborhood.

"Better promotion of the Farmers' Market and fuller utilization of the Freight House - that's our goal," says John Waite, vice chairman of the Historic Depot Town Foundation, the branch of the DTA charged with long range planning for the area.

Marybelle Suczek, Foundation Chairman and a principal in the Follett House Associates, finds no fault with the present operation other than the fact that the immediate neighborhood, the Association and the Foundation have a great track record of creative promotion and have visions of that more-than-one-hundred-year-old structure becoming Ypsilanti's Cobo Hall. In this day of budgetary crises, the City cannot expand to meet the growing community needs. The Foundation, Suczek rationalizes, continues forward on its dynamic volunteer ethic.. "We believe that we can manage the Freight House to meet the needs of the community and make it pay for itself. Everyone could benefit: It would save the City money, since they have been subsidizing the market operation. In addition, the building needs roof repairs and some major improvements to bring it up to code for the proposed coffee shop."

"The Depot Town area would also benefit because the Freight House would become a real community center - a focal point of activity," says Marybelle. "For the Farmers' Market we need to increase the number of grower/producers and to upgrade the quality and variety of products available. And then we' ll also promote like crazy."

Suczek's enthusiasm continues: "In addition to the Farmers' Market we can start other kinds of markets. The Freight House can be used for all kinds of shows, meetings and activities. We're going to make the place really hum - and every patron is a potential customer for the other Depot Town businesses."

The Foundation operates as a subsidiary of the DTA, as does the Merchants committee, enjoying the organizational protections of incorporation and tax exempt status of the parent group. The January RAG published the group's founding credo. Founded in December of 1982, the Foundation seeks to take up the role of long-range planning for the district where the 1976 DEPOT TOWN PLAN left off. That 10-year plan was virtually accomplished in six years and the Association has been primarily a promotional organization since that time, say Foundation members.

Still under negotiation at this writing, City Council should soon see a proposal from the Foundation and the City administration asking for the ordinance regarding Market policy to be altered to meet the new development from Depot town.

Cudney Quits as Market Manager

Neighbors hosted a going away and bon voyage party for Nancy Cudney in early May to honor her contributions to the development, formation and continuation of the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market. After four and a half years as market manager, Nancy tendered her resignation to the City as of May first. Luckily for all involved, she has been persuaded to continue through the end of June.

Although many remember her first designation as "Market Master", Nancy

continued on page 8

Preservation Week

In 1983, the United States will lose 500,000 homes to abandonment, destruction and demolition. At a time when the demand for housing continues to grow, this is a careless waste of a valuable national resource.

Historic buildings now provide shelter to many Americans who have realized that preservation and rehabilitation are the solution to their need for housing. Cared for and preserved, our nation's rich legacy of craftsmanship and design can provide affordable homes for millions more people.

Help save and rehabilitate our heritage. Open the door for preservation. Write: National Trust, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Screening Committee

Canvas awnings and flush-mounted painted signs have found their way back to Depot Town in recent years, and is it any wonder that screen doors would not be far behind? Spring-mounted doors that give a satisfying "Slam-whack" when released from the full, wide-open position, have found their home again in this block. No pneumatic door-closers here.

Sure, a few of us sport high-tech air conditioning, but the majority of our small busineses still harken back to the earliest air conditioning known: fresh air. Fresh air which circulated through screen doors and transoms above them, fresh air pushed around the shop by overhead fans, fresh air re-directed by front and back door manipulations and strategies.

As the weather warms, Depot Towners continue to expeiment with this old pile of bricks to add what modern entrepreneurs call comfort conditioning. Neighborhood apartment dwellers realize the value of cross ventilation in these flat-roofed Italianate buildings: open the doors and windows from front to back and cover everything on your desk. If the flat doesn't run from front to back, most residents are so compatible that they share the air with others on their floor. Cats and dogs are shared the same way.

STANDARD PRINTING has, perhaps, the oldest original screen door on the block. (about 35 years old, new screen) We suppose it is facetious to call an old screen door "original", since every screen must be replaced every two years, on average.

IKE'S BARBERSHOP led the way for the new wave a few years ago so his customers could hear the pleasant street sounds as well as watch the action through Ike's big, always sparkling clean, front window. A favorite sport is to yell in from the street, "Hey, Charlie. Getting your ears lowered?" continued on page 6

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE MAKING IT

On March 18 President Reagan sent to Congress the Second Annual Report on the State of Small Business. This 370 page report reviews the state of small business in 1982 and concentrates on the effects of the recession. It provides statistical information on the number of small businesses, discusses the dynamics of small business job generation, reviews the flow of funds to small business, reviews small business participation in federal R & D, addresses business failures, and discusses small business regulation.

The report shows that small businesses have done relatively well this year compared to large businesses in maintaining income flow and the level of employment, despite the decline in gross national product:

- Private employment decreased by 2.7 million jobs from July 1981 to December 1982, but 90 percent occured in the large-business-dominated mining and manufacturing industries.
- Construction was the only small-business dominated industry that declined dramatically during the recession. Service, retail, and wholesale industries held up better.
- Some 560,000 new businesses were incorporated in 1982.
- Reductions in the federal capital gains tax from 49 percent to 28 percent in 1978, and to 20 percent in 1981, have contributed to a three-fold expansion of the venture capital market.

Copies of the PRESIDENTS REPORT ON THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS may be obtained by contacting the SBA, 1725 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 408, Washington, D.C., 20416, phone (202) 634-7600.

Best Stripper on the Block

New company emanating from Depot Town is David Allen's new material which strips out paint, graffiti, grime, soot from fire damage and more... from old building surfaces. He left his scrap book of before and after photos in the market not long ago and we were much impressed.

David hasn't named the substance or the company yet, but will be presenting to the Historic District Commission soon to get their endorsement of his fine, new product.

Stop in or call: David M. Allen, 301 North River, (485-7420). He's in partnership with Steve Howard and both are eager to share their new found toy with other preservationists.

GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Ypsilanti's Historic East Side" featuring 1840's Greek Revival cottages through Craftsman bungalows, and the Mansard-towered Gilbert mansion.

May 8 and 14, 2:00 p.m. from the Depot. Contact Sherry Tafini/HESA, 305 E. Cross, 484-3425

D.T.A Insurance Facts

Greg Hochradel reports many requests for information on the insurance programs offered in the block. The Depot Town Association has been offering, as a member service, low cost insurance programs since December 1981. We feature Group Health Plans as well as Individual Health Plans. Both of these plans are tailored to meet your specific insurance needs. Regular, Associate and Patron members are all eligible.

Also featured are low cost Group and Individual Life insurance programs with added discounts for non-smokers and runners.

We also feature Comprehensive Business Insurance Programs for the retail establishments in our business district.

Many of our members are participating in one or more of these programs already. If you are interested in further information, contact: Gregory Hochradel at Finn's JM&J Insurance Agency, 434-0180.

TED'S AUTO ELECTRIC
307 N. River Street

PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC
COMIC BOOKS • BASEBALL CARDS • SUPPLIES
50 E. CROSS • 485-4930
YPSILANTI, MI 48197

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
483-1035

U of M ARCHITECTS KICK OFF PHASE III IDEA-FEST

Dozens of community leaders, local and state officials, potential financiers and investors stopped by the DEPOT TOWN TOMORROW program held in the Freight House on April 22 to see the Urban Design Group's dreams for this old district.

Day-long critiques of plans for Kircher's building on North River Street gave many Depot Towners a new look at an edifice we see too regularly to be related to fantasy.

Slides, drawings, models and verbal presentations gave this block's regulars an excellent opportunity to share new points of view and see ourselves from a new angle.

The question of in-fill, or adding new stuff to the old, was addressed by part of the School of Architecture. Elegant new living spaces stretched down the Huron River facing Riverside Park.

Biggest extra of the late afternoon was the Depot Town Streetscape which afforded an overview of the entire district.

Kudos are due to professors Crance, Frank and Waczny. Their inspiration and our raw material seemed to have a synergistic effect upon the products of the exhibitors.

Some may criticize the plans for being "impractical" and "unrealistic" but the fresh perspective can help all of us share our points of view for just a moment and see our projects differently. Watch for some of the plans to evolve into the day-to-day workings on the block. Someday soon those folks might be architects on your staff. The new angles from these talented architects helped many of us to see differently. Their designs were received as concepts of idea starters -- not as "the plan".

Coming Attractions

Recently Depot Town was the recipient of a wonderful article in the ANN ARBOR NEWS. The response was so great, we at THE RAG have decided to write a mini series on the formation of the D.T.A. Look ahead in the coming months for "Depot Town: THE UNSUNG HEROES". As the name implies, the series will cover the people responsible for Depot Town's turnaround in early 1970 to 1974, when the times were tough down here, and the special few who were down here who changed the neighborhood for the good.

Media Coverage Expands

April 21st saw a layout seminar held in the Freight House and ably staffed by the folks from the DETROIT FREE PRESS. Detriot? Did you say Detroit? Yes, Detroit!

Their newly expanded Western Wayne edition hits our street every Thursday and has featured Depot Town businesses regularly.

All this attention falls on the heels of the ANN ARBOR NEWS opening its local editorial office in the Ladies Library on North Huron Street. The YPSILANTI PRESS, of course, is doing its usual fine coverage and even that is more intense with ace photographer Dennis Dunleavy becoming a Depot Town resident. Kim Mathis, YPSILANT PRESS receptionist, is another long-time denizen of this block.

Such a media hype. Whatever will those of us on the the RAG do? Shall we host a fete of leftover jazz concert wine near Dodd's dumpster? How can we ever compete? RSVP.

Expose Yourself
GOSA'S CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY
• Public relations
• Portraits • Commercial
6 East Cross St - (313) 481-0154
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

• and everything nice •
RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
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HANDCRAFTED TOYS and GIFTS
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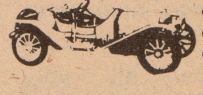
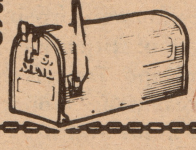
DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI

Rosemary's Corner
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994

CITY BODY SHOP

• BUMPING & PAINTING
• AUTO GLASS INSTALLED
• ALIGNMENT & BALANCE
HUnter 24737 • 20 E. CROSS Cars, Trucks, Motor Homes

Depot Mailbox
POSTAL BOX RENTALS
MESSAGE SERVICES
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN
485-4994


When In Doubt, Inc.
CARDS AND GIFTS
23 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-1448
in historic Depot Town
10-6 Mon. thru Fri. 10-5 Sat.

VINTAGE PASSION
Antiques - Collectables - Art Deco
Vintage Clothing and Accessories
310 River Street - Historic Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197

BAR-GAN AUTO RENTAL
308 North River
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

IKE'S
DEPOT TOWN BARBER SHOP
40 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
PROFESSIONALS with • ALL GRAPHICS • NEEDLE CRAFT • FRAMING OF OBJECTS • ARCHIVAL FRAMING
GALLERY of ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM & SUPPLIES
• ARTS & CRAFTS CLASSES
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

STEAM EXCURSION

continued from page 1

Unintentional as the omission was -it worked - and folks of all ages and styles showed up at the billboard display of railroad memorabilia to reserve places on the excursion train.

Those who didn't move fast enough may still climb on board (without the benefit of group rates) for the Sunday, May 15 identical excursion. Call or write the Mad River and NKP Railroad Museum, Bellevue, Ohio.

MAY 14 TRAIN PASSENGERS PLEASE NOTE:

8:00 a.m. Ypsilanti

Please park in the gravel lot east of Frog Island. First coffee in the Farmer's Market Coffee Shop.

8:30 a.m. Bus leaves Farmer's Market

Two to a seat. Some have opted to meet the group in Toledo (Homestead Yard, southeast of Front Street at the I-280 freeway. Behind Tony Packo's restaurant. Board 1930 B&O commuter coach

10:00 a.m. Toledo

Special excursion train leaves for day-long trip (Note: Private excursions run by railfans are most un-American. They are as prompt as Japanese trains. All busses and trains leave ON TIME.

Pack a lunch. Bring drinks and thermoses. Ice and mix available at two on-board snack bars. Alcohol? Discretely, please! Music? Harmonica, guitars and railroad folk songs are in order.

Feel free to stroll through all twenty cars - except the two private stateroom pullmans. Tell everyone you meet about beautiful nineteenth century Ypsilanti. Invite them to the Heritage Festival on August 26, 27, 28. Wear an Ypsilanti T-Shirt.

Cameras will be handy for the photo-run-by at Clyde, Ohio. Detrain, snap the passing train, get back on board.

1:15 p.m. Bellevue

Detrain at the Mad River NKP Railroad Museum.

Over thirty cars on exhibit. Two blocks to Central Business District. Great Victorian Restaurants: Clancy's, McClains, Little Italy, Amsden House and others. Possible side trip to Historic Lime Kiln by advance reservation includes bus, lunch and tour of masion and cabins. $6 per person.

4:00 Excursion train leaves Bellevue
7:00 p.m.Arrives Toledo, Bus Departs
8:30 p.m. Bus arrives Ypsilanti Farmer's Market.

RAG BAG

(Leave your inclusions for this monthly column with Diane LaRue at...and Everything Nice.)

Welcome to Betty Beck's DELI SHOPPE located at the end of the block next to the HEALTH EMPORIUM at 17 East Cross. The menu looks diverse and very tasty with something to appeal to everyone. There's hearty sandwiches to dieter's salads with plenty for vegetarians. The decor couldn't be cuter, with calico curtains, lots of wood, plants, and even an antique wood cookstove.

Jack McCarthy was in Depot Town the other day charming the locals with autographing his cookbook entitled "Jack McCarthy's Restaurant Recipes". If you missed him, don't miss a chance to pick up the book. It has somewonderful recipes from Detroit area reataurants. (and also from Ypsilanti's own SPAGHETTI BENDER.) At WHEN IN DOUBT, 25 East Cross Street.

"Cosgrove Critters" are now available only at...AND EVERYTHING NICE 27 East Cross; a good selection of superbly hand-crafted wood puzzles and toys created by Red Cosgrove. They're classic toys available at a budget price that will become tomorrow's heirlooms.

Rumor has it that the mad framers at RIVER ART WORKS, 48 East Cross, are expanding. The ART ATTACK at 731 West Cross, in Campus Town, will now be offering their expert framing.

Salutations to JAMES MacDONALD ANTIQUES & APPLE ANNIES at 29 East Cross on their recent spring housecleaning and renovations. Their expanded showroom looks terrific and is chock full.

Speaking of looking good, let's all of us Depot Towners spruce up for spring. Sweep the sidewalks, wash the windows, curb your dogs, plant your planter boxes, pick up trash and just get this place shining. The DTA merchants clean-up day was snowed out...but another day will be scheduled soon.

WHAT' NEW? Starting in May, ROSEMARY'S CORNER and DEPOT MAILBOX at 15 East Cross have growing pains. Norm and Rosemary announce a new service for Depot Towners: A package wrapping service in conjunction with UPS. A small fee is charged for this service but the advantage of not having to line up at UPS away across town - plus - saving gasoline - plus - Rosemary and Norm are open on Saturdays!

Congratulations, John Kornilakis

Recently our own John Kornilakus of the Old Town Restaurant was elected to the Board of Directors of the Greater Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce. Citing the fact that Depot Town is the up and coming area of our city, the chamber felt we should be represented. Upon looking back through Depot Town renaissance, it was obvious that John and his Old Town Restaurant were and are the main catalyst in our resurgence to respectability and that John and his Old Town Restaurant is the best suited candidate. We at the RAG could not agree more.

Treasure Shop To Open

Owners, Shirley and JoAnne Kornilakis have decided to carry only their own merchandise, meaning they would have to close to return their other merchandise which was on consignment. Good luck from all of us at the RAG.

Oceans in Motion (coming soon)

Soon there will be yet another Kornilakis in business. This time it's Tom. Tom plans on carrying a vast assortment of saltwater fish, invertebrates, aquariums and accessories. Tom's love for the hobby has prompted him to "take it out of his basement" and put it on location so everyone can enjoy the beauty of these fascinating creatures. OCEANS IN MOTION will be located in the back of the TREASURE SHOP and plans to open in June.

Depot Town Merchants Announce:
BOOMER DAYS
July 15,16,17, 1983

Hoping for a larger-than-neighborhood-celebration, this year's event will see local hobo royalty with nominees made in the June RAG issue and voting jars out by out by June 25th. Collections will be made for one month and then we'll have a new ruling family of Hobo King, Queen, Prince, Princess, etc.

Hobo Jungle will rise again, with prizes for the best overnight camping shelter improvised from found and borrowed materials.

The Bum's Rush will feature two events: one for children, the other for adults, who will panhandle their way from the water tower, through Campus Town and into the safety of the railroad district.

KIDSART, a program for vacationing school-age artists will coincide with the event, as well.

Plans are underway to solicit the real Boomers from around the country to come and relate their railroad-depression age stories about the area.

A New Boomer Logo?

Last year's "Boomer" was an example of clip art put together by Joanne Daniels. Earlier "Boomer" was the work of Brian Pollack. Just like the Rag-Dog contest, we're always looking for a new "Boomer". Drop your drawings off at the caboose. We'll print them here.

COUPON:

DTA Caboose:

Here are my nominees for BOOMER DAYS –

King _____ Prince _____

Queen _____ Princess _____

TROPHIES AWARDED

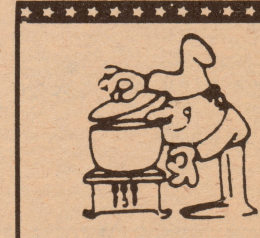
Two glitzy globs have begun their routes around the district thanks to the double-edged humor of Follett House Associations Jerry Meadows. The GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD (description not to be printed here) went to J & J PLASTERCRAFT for having the longest Christmas diplay in their window. Runner-up was Tom Dodd for not running for City Council again.

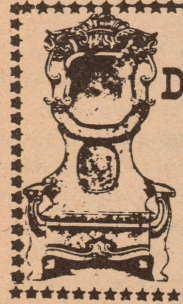
The BEST YET AWARD, (similar to the GOOSE, but one you wouldn't be afraid to show to your mother) went to Gary and Carolyn McKeever for their remarkable talents for organization and administration. Runner-up here was Rex Richie for chairing this winter's beer concession at the Jazz Series.

It's time we recognized both the dubious and the obvious achievements in our block. Watch for their return. Both recipients are encouraged to pass them on to appropriate winners at the monthly DTA meetings.

Miller's
SINCE 1896
ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI


Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN


DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E. Cross St., (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780

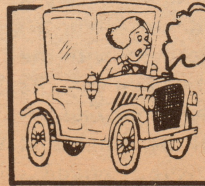
SALOON
Aubrey's

HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

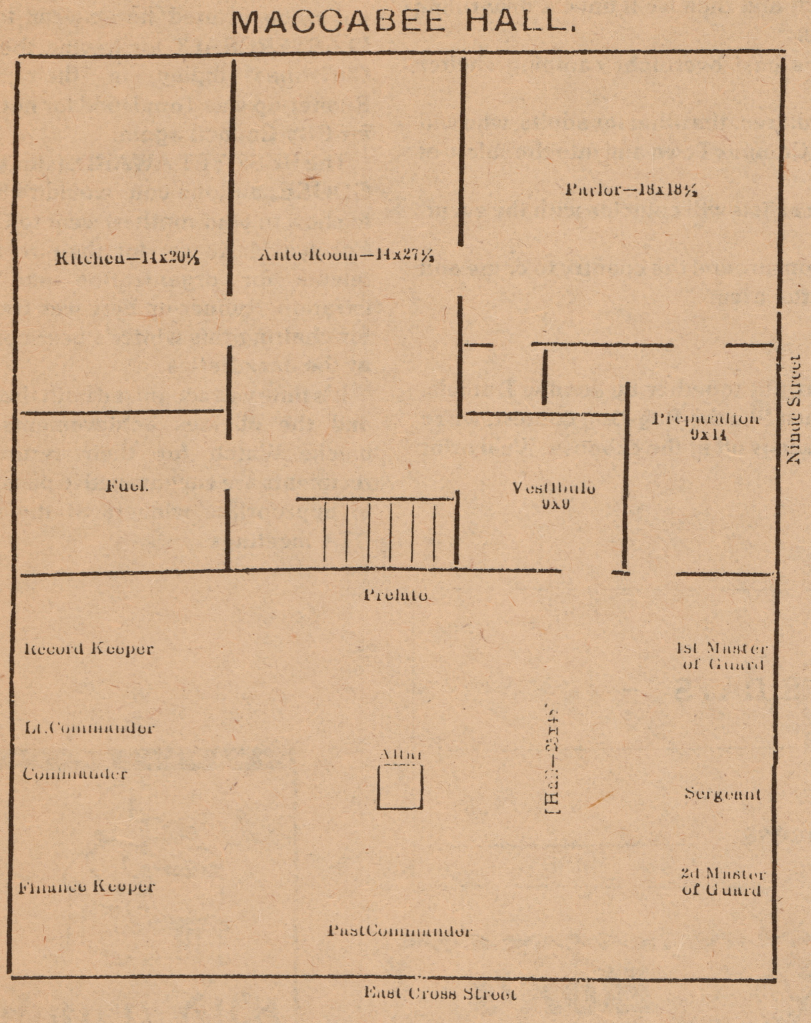
Burgers-Booze-Billards

Jacqueline's Boutique
25 E. Cross St.
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mi
483-8150
Gently Used
Women's Clothes
10-5 Tue. - Fri.
10 - 4 Sat.

COLLECTIBLES
OLD TOWN
TREASURE
Antiques
32 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI


CITY
RADIATOR
11 E. CROSS
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
483-2248

IT WAS DEDICATED High Dignitaries were there, and a great attendance of members.



We show above an accurate diagram of the new Maccabee Hall and the rooms connected with it, all of which are used for the purposes of the organization, under a five year lease. The dimensions of the rooms are given in feet, and the stations of the officers at the lodge meetings show in the main hall. The hall, preparation room for candidates, and parlor, are carpeted with bright red ingrain that gives a most lively and cheerful aspect, and the anteroom and vestibule have their floors covered with handsome matting. The rooms are all brilliantly lighted with incandescent lamps, of which twenty-four shed their radiance in the main hall. The fresco decoration there is modest in style, and very pretty. The emblems upon the east wall are, and oriental tent, with the words, Astra Castra, Numen Lumen - The Stars Our Camp, The Deity our Guide - representing the order of the Knights of the Maccabees, whose lodge is called a tent at the Commander's right; and at his left, a conventional bee-hive, with the er Aspera - To the Stars through Difficulties - representing the popular auxiliary order of the Ladies of the Maccabees, whose lodge is called a hive. The hall occupies the third floor of the Masonic Block at the Depot, east of Newell Block where the Tent has had it quarters heretofore. The fraternity have expended $700 in fitting up these handsome rooms.

(Special thanks to Scott Kunst and Foster Fletcher who dug up the previous piece from the Friday, October 6, 1893 edition of the YPSILANTI COMMERCIAL. The Masonic Block is that portion which now houses HON'S FLOWERS, RIVER ART WORKS and PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC. The third floor illustrated is now the residence of Councilmember Greg Dodd and his parents, Bettie and Tom.)

SCREENING COMMITTEE

Gentle breezes enter...AND EVERYTHING NICE with a full-width slam-banger on that shop.. It's nice to open this door very gently so as not to bump toddlers who may be playing with push toys on the floor.

BELL'S PIZZA now enjoys flow-thru natural air conditioning with both front and back screen doors, wafting their aromatic product throughout the block.

The Masonic block sees double screen doors on HON'S FLOWERS, RIVER ART WORKS, and PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC where remodelers carefully fit the screens to match the openings of the other doors. HDC guided this project and one can imagine these being duplicates of one hundred years ago.

JAMES MAC DONALD ANTIQUES & APPLE ANNIES exhibits the most modern door on the block. It's aluminum, for heavens's sake!

JACK MILLER has the largest doors. They cover the auto entrance with two-inch holes: just right for keeping out those bugs which lean on antique autos.

Screen doors also call for other accoutrements such as Salada Tea push-bars which say "Thank You, Call Again," on the inside and balls of cotton batting pinned to the center to discourage house flies. How long will it be until we see those little "C-shaped" door closers with a rubber roller at each end that slapped the door tight shut in a breeze, or the black rubber ball on a chain that caught in the jam on the first slam and softened the wood-on-wood slam to a "thud-click" rather than a rude "SLAM".

River Art Works sports a spring-mounted bell which announces entry - a much more inviting entrance than a flickering, clicking electric eye or closed circuit television monitor.

Kid's bikes will tumble into these new screen doors and the handle bars will leave tell-tale dents in the lower panels. Dogs will lie in the satisfying breezes just outside and grumble at having to move for customers on hot days. Even with having to push in the right place, these old-new additions are a welcome sight to those who enjoy the Nineteenth century authenticity in the restoration of this old commercial district. Welcome back, screen doors.

STANDARD PRINTING knew all along what a practical amenity this i· heck out the grandaddy of the bloc. t the entrance.

We expect to see more screen door designs appear this summer and en-

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Screening

courage their homemade designers to watch for authentic styles in antique catalogs:

A. The graceful, thin and open design from Grandma's back porch boasted lathe-turned corner brackets and dowels in the push panel. Very open and fragile, but most rare today. Barry and Diane LaRue have one on their back door on North Hamilton Street. Neighbors could tell when the grandchildren had visited, since they took their toll on this door. A diagonal turnbuckle often was added later to keep this delicate piece from warping out far enough to let the chickens in.

B. The "Christian Door" sported a cross design in the bottom half which gave stability and rigidity. Boomers often marked the crosses with chalked symbols telling how amenable this family was to feeding travelers for an afternoon of chores. Such doors were often accompanied by a window with cooling pies, a wood pile and a backyard pump.

C. The hex-design, although said to keep out witches and bad spirits in Pennsylvania, was not found in the midwest until the Mrs. Grace L. Ferguson Airlines and Stormdoor Company popularized the nasty metallic copies in the 1960's. We don't expect to see any of these in Depot Town. Some even have phony Colony scallops around the window opening in the top two-thirds.

When designing the screen door, keep in mind the horizontals and verticals of the door which it will cover, and keep them compatible when both are closed. Remember, that any exterior changes in the Historic District must be approved by the commission. Our experience has been most positive, with the Commission being quite excited about the recurrent popularity of authentically-styled screen doors in our block.

SCREEN DOOR ETIQUETTE:

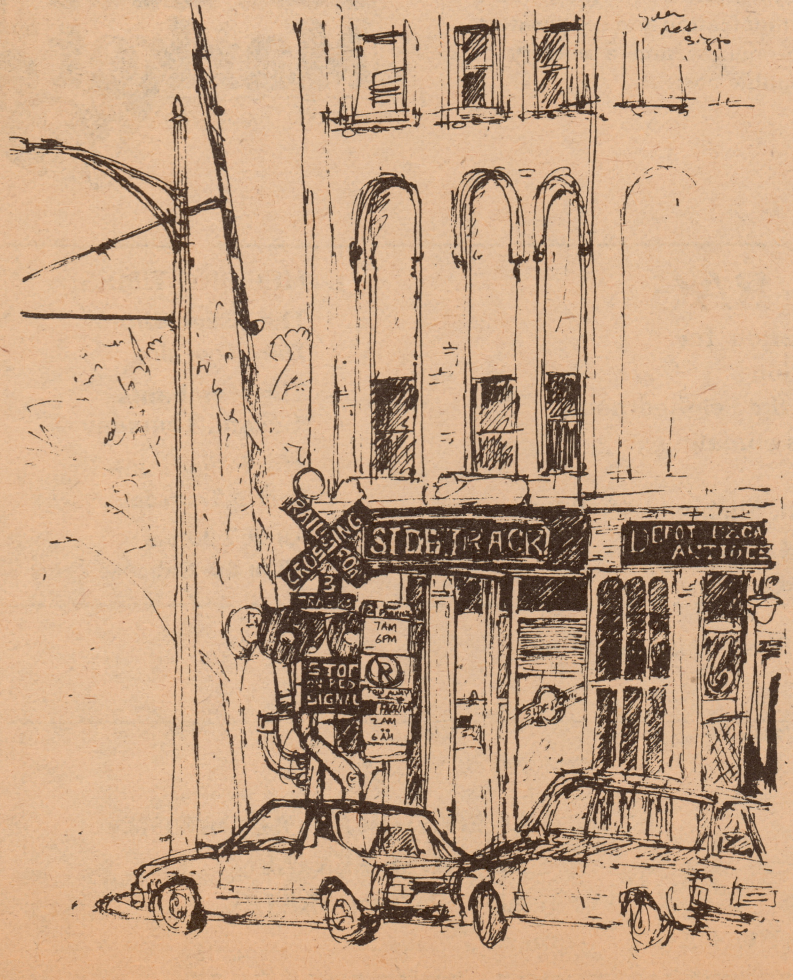
1. Never, just never, hold the door open for a long good-bye. Your won't strain your voice talking through the door. Good-bye kisses through the door will leave a lasting impression, as well.

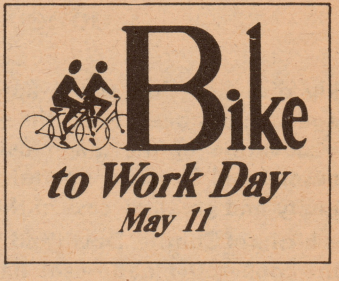
2. It's appropriate, again, to hold the door open for folks, male or female, just so it won't slam too fast and catch them in the eye. "Where did you get that shiner, walk into a screen door or something?"

3. Do not giggle when others miss an elbow-hold and quickly substitute knee or fanny-hold with a spring-mounted screen door.

4. Don't swat June bugs or Miller moths against the top of the screen in the early evening. They'll squash against the screen and you'll have to look at them all the rest of the season. Either turn out the light for a while ...or let them in.

A final thought: Who ever thought we would be reading the merits of such a phenomenon as the screen door in this day and age? Shall we look forward to an August dissertation on the merits of flyswatters versus fly paper? Probably not.





Dear RAG?

In your last issue you had a nice little article in the "Rag Bag" column about Jacqueline's Boutique.

This one hit pretty deep to all of us constantly struggling "WHOPPING" size 48's which your article refers to us as.

I, for one, do not consider myself WHOPPING! At least K-Mart refers to me as "full figure". Your article really stressed that a size 3 is more acceptable socially, by not using an adjective to describe it. I certainly hope that my friends on the RAG are really not as biased as your article sounded. (By the way, size 48 is not as large as it sounds. I'll only take up one seat on the train trip.)

Sincerely,
LRB

Michigan Week May 14-21

FROG ISLAND JAZZ - SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Traditions form easily in this part of town. Greg Hochradel's first hype for a Jazz tent at the 1981 Heritage Festival grew into a six concert series that winter and ended with the June 12 Frog Island all-day event. That first music-packed year was replicated this year and will conclude with an all-day top talent, Frog Island extravaganza on June 25th.

As usual, Depot Towners host the event and help the rest of the world enjoy what is, perhaps, Ypsilanti's best-kept secret: Frog Island -originally created next to the Huron River by sluice to run the lumber and flour mills, the "island" has since seen use as the High School athletic field and, most recently as a city park. Only last month City Council approved the beginnings of solicitation for funds to improve and develop that site. University architects also noted the need for amphitheatre, entertainment facilities, improved parking and more uses than now are afforded by the site. Concerts and expositions will be a large part of its future use as well.

DTA president McKeever needs many volunteers for long hours on this special day. Merchants will want to feature more sidewalk specials and chase their workers down to Frog Island when their shift is over.

One new policy we hope to see in effect this year: If your dog likes Jazz-he'll need to buy a ticket too !

Cudney Quits as Manager

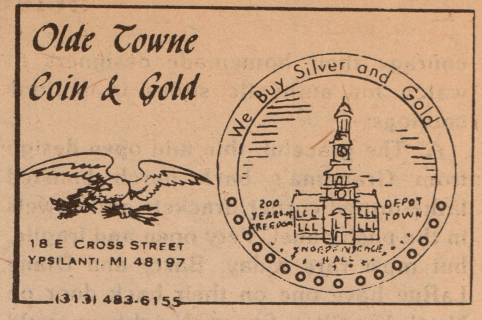
continued from page 1

quickly dispelled that sexist appelation and became "manager." And what a manager she has been. From the original out-door-only operation, to the opening and renovation of the long-closed freight house to the steady regularity the Wednesday and Saturday operation we now enjoy, Nancy is to be credited for the continuity and great success of this unique experiment.

The births of Charlie, David and Tommy were the only interruptions in her service, and the cooperative nature she had already established at the Market carried her policies through.

Many shopkeepers in the block learned from Cudney's style. She established a city-owned business for the block and has fostered communication and cooperation between local government, Michigan agricultural producers and a society of consumers interested in quality merchandise at reasonable cost.

Thanks Nancy !



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

a publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc.
a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation
dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood
and to the enhancement of its business climate
Carolyn McKeever, president
(DTA: The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197)
Annual Dues: Regular membership $25.00

MEETING TIMES:

The Association
Third Thursday

The Merchants
Second Thursday

The Foundation
Fourth Thursday

All at 7:30 pm
All in the Caboose

Please send more information on the Depot Town Association to:

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Phone _____

Check Interest:

— MEMBERSHIP
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— INSURANCE PLANS
— DEPOT TOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
— DEPOT TOWN FOUNDATION
— CABOOSE RENTAL
— ADVERTISING RATES
other _____